



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
TRENTON, KC MEN PLEAD GUILTY
TO ILLEGAL FIREARM, AMMUNITION POSSESSION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two individuals pleaded guilty in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, to illegally possessing ammunition and a firearm. Today's guilty pleas are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Steven L. May**, 50, of Trenton, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to being a felon in possession of ammunition.

By pleading guilty, **May** admitted that he was in possession of numerous rounds of .22-caliber, .44-caliber and .308-caliber ammunition on June 3, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **May** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for the sale of a controlled substance.

May was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 4, 2004, in Kansas City.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **May** could be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Grundy County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Trenton, Mo., Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and NITRO, the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation.

* **Jeremy D. Knowles**, 26, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert E. Larson this morning to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in

possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Knowles** admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .38-caliber revolver on Nov. 22, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any addict or user of a controlled substance to be in possession of a firearm. **Knowles** admitted that he was an unlawful user of methamphetamine when he was in possession of the firearm.

Knowles was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 15, 2004, in Kansas City.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Knowles** could be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow